

News Release



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February 7, 2014

IPHC Requests Bids for 2014 Standardized Stock Assessment Charters

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) is seeking longline vessels to conduct survey fishing in 2014. The purpose of the setline survey is to collect standardized data used for halibut stock assessment. This information is used to study aspects of the halibut resource such as growth, distribution, biomass, age composition, sexual maturity, and relative abundance of other species. Legal-sized halibut from all skates and some bycatch will be retained and sold by the IPHC to reduce charter expenses. The 2014 setline survey will cover 31 regions, from northern California to the northern Bering Sea including the Aleutian Islands. All regions are open for single year bids. Vessels will fish 7 skates of gear at each station following standard survey protocol. A maximum of 4 stations will be permitted per day. Most regions require 12 - 22 fishing days plus additional days for running, loading and offloading gear and fish, foul weather days, etc. Depending on the region, total charter duration can be expected to be 21 - 38 days. Vessels are encouraged to bid for multiple areas, and may be awarded up to three regions (Area 2A vessel may be awarded up to four regions). Survey fishing must be completed between May 25th and August 31st, 2014.

Vessels need not be licensed for halibut fishing in Canada or the U.S. to be eligible. The IPHC is not restricted as to nationality of the vessels it charters for operation in any area as long as customs regulations are followed. The IPHC will consider only those vessels with captains and crews that have halibut fishing experience. Most areas require vessels that have adequate deck space and suitable accommodations for two Commission employees (who may be women). Vessels must supply **conventional fixed-hook setline gear** built to Commission Standards (see Charter Specifications) as well as all associated equipment normally required for commercial halibut fishing. Interested vessel owners are invited to submit bids based upon standard IPHC contract structure. Bids will be accepted based upon a lump sum payment for the completion of a region.

The IPHC will evaluate bids based on (1) the experience of captain and crew with halibut fishing, (2) the characteristics and safety features of the vessel, (3) vessel's availability, and (4) IPHC operating costs. The lowest or any bid will not necessarily be accepted, and the Commission will contract according to its own best interests.

For further information please contact Claude Dykstra (ext. 7662), Tracee Geernaert (ext. 7665), or Heather Gilroy (ext. 7666) at (206) 634-1838.

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IPHC Requests Vessel Bids for Hooking Success Charter

The IPHC is requesting bids from vessels to conduct a hooking success charter during the early summer of 2014. The purpose of the charter is to deploy a lightweight (approx. 100 pounds) drop camera and frame to observe single baited circle hooks attached to the camera frame and to record the interactions of halibut to evaluate the hooking success for halibut 48 inches and larger. The vessel chartered will need to mount an IPHC pot hauler or modify their hauler davit to mount the IPHC hauler to deploy and retrieve the camera frame. Captain and crew must have experience fishing for halibut in the chartering area. The charter is expected to last for approximately ten days, with seven days deploying the gear. While the specific charter dates and location are flexible, we are expecting to conduct this trip during May or early June. Other times will be considered, but bid acceptance will depend on our ability to have staff available during the time period you suggest.

Our goal is to observe 50 hook attacks by larger (>48 inches) halibut. We expect the work to take place on a sport fishing charter vessel, most likely as day trips from a lodge or other accommodation. However, we are open to all proposals, including a continuous vessel trip with meals and bunks on the vessel. The charter bid must specify expected fishing area with a statement of previous fishing success in that region for the time period suggested. Fish which are successfully hooked will be retrieved, measured, and released. Rockfish will be released immediately after measurement at either 50 or 100 feet using an adjustable hydrostatic release mechanism. Because all fish will be released, no fish will be sold, and no fish monies will be available from this charter.

The vessel, with a crew size of one or two including the captain, must be suitable for the area.

Vessel owners are asked to submit a bid based upon a lump sum for the charter, including crew and fuel expenses. Please specify if IPHC accommodations and meals are provided. One crewmember must always be available to assist Commission employees in their work. We are expecting only two IPHC employees. Vessel description and brief statement regarding the master's experience fishing for halibut is required, along with a photo or drawing showing the layout of the deck and mechanical equipment. The IPHC may require an inspection of the vessel by IPHC staff or an appointed representative prior to awarding the charter. Vessels need not be licensed for halibut fishing to be eligible. The lowest or any bid will not necessarily be accepted and the Commission will contract according to its own best interests. The IPHC will evaluate bids based on (1) experience of captain and crew with fishing for halibut in the study area, (2) characteristics and safety features of the vessel, (3) dates on which the vessel is available for charter, and (4) IPHC operating costs.

For further information please contact Steve Kaimmer (206-634-1838 ext. 7668 or Claude Dykstra ext. 7662).

Charter Specifications and Vessel Tender Forms for the above projects may be requested from the Commission or downloaded from the IPHC web site (www.iphc.int). **Bids must be received at the IPHC office in Seattle by 12:00 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time) on Monday, March 10th, 2014.**

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